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THROUGH SWAMP AND FOREST

2302.107

THE BRITISH CAMPAIGNS IN AFRICA

FOREWORD.

IF there had been no war in Europe the campaigns in the German Colonies would have compelled the interest of the whole world. The mere preparation for the conquest of territories which, with the exception of Togoland, were all considerably larger than the German Empire, was an extraordinary achievement. Thousands of men, horses and mules; tons of ammunition, bridging material, railway and engineering material; stores of all sorts, even water had to be brought hundreds of miles by sea and landed in hostile territory. The enemy was in his own territory, perfectly conversant with its advantages and disadvantages, inured to its extremes of heat and cold, and to all its dangers.

The British had to send men, the bulk of them white men totally unused to tropical and malarial country, into these vast territories through silent forests where any danger might lie hidden. Sometimes the troops were assailed by wild bees, deliberately maddened by the enemy; sometimes wild elephants would charge the marching line. The roaring of lions would frequently break the silences of the night, to form a new terror to any wounded who had not been brought in. At times the way of advance lay through almost impenetrable bush, where the men had to reconcile themselves to hacking a pathway.

In Cameroon and German East Africa the only method of supply was frequently by long lines of native carriers, who would fling aside their burdens and bolt at the slightest alarm. In fine, the first enemy that stood in the way of the invading armies was the natural condition of these lands, where huge spaces as large as many a country had never been settled by Europeans and had no railway or other means of communication. But the campaigns were carried through with great rapidity. General Botha outmarched and outfought his opponent in South-West Africa in a few months of Spring and Summer in 1915. In Cameroon the task was more difficult. There were numbers of small fortresses which, in the absence of heavy guns, could not be easily reduced. There were three European nations engaged, besides native troops, and it was not easy to correlate the movements of the different Generals. But Cameroon was conquered by the beginning of 1916.

German East Africa, where the most skilful of the German commanders was in charge of a large body of German and first-rate native troops, offered the greatest difficulties. But even there in nine months General Smuts penned the enemy into a small malarial area in the south of the colony. Despite poisoned wells, land mines, and every advantage of position, all the colonies with the exception of this one small spot had been taken by the beginning of 1917.

Through Swamp and Forest

THE BRITISH CAMPAIGNS IN AFRICA

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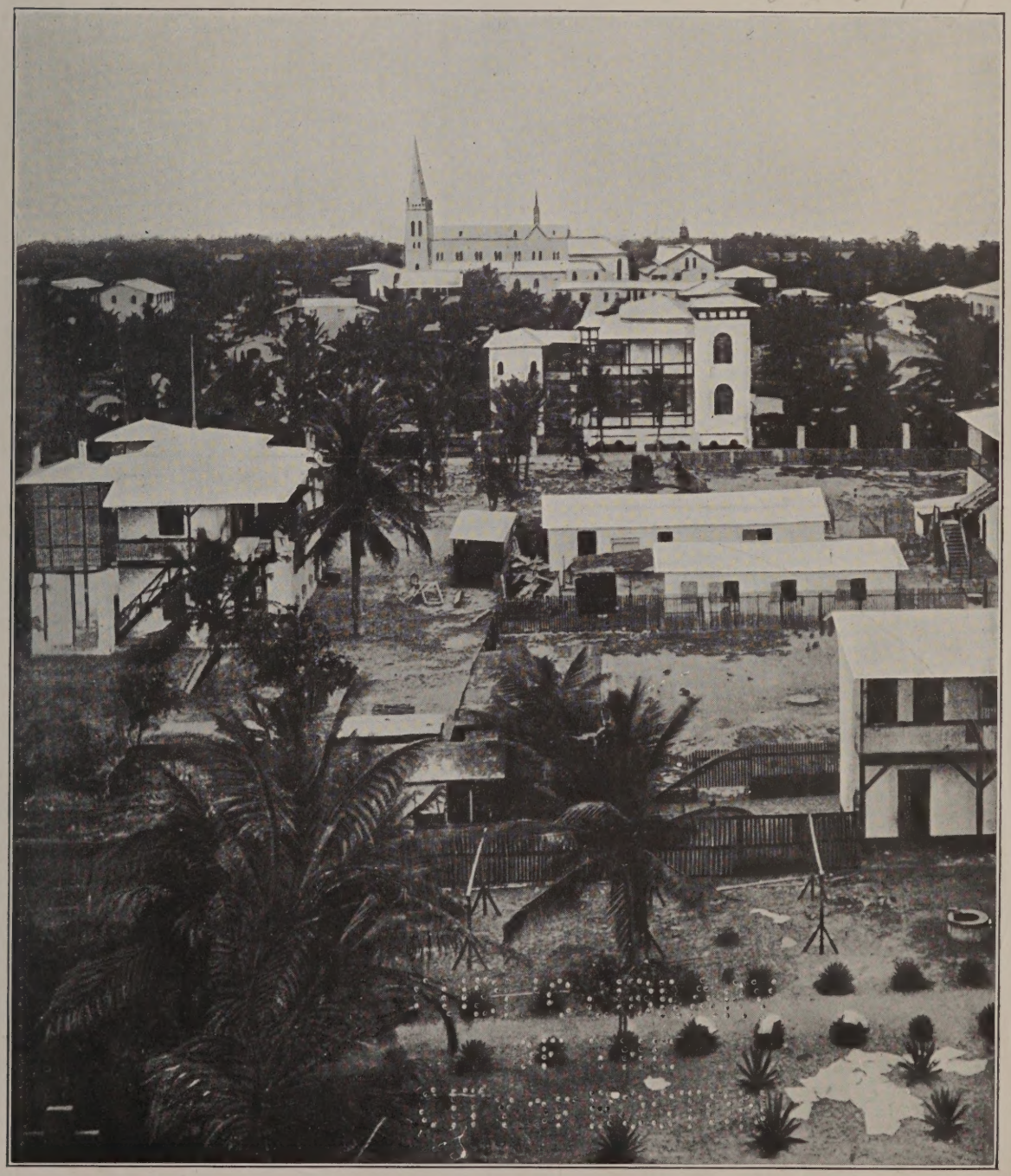

The Capture of German Togoland: A General View of Lome.

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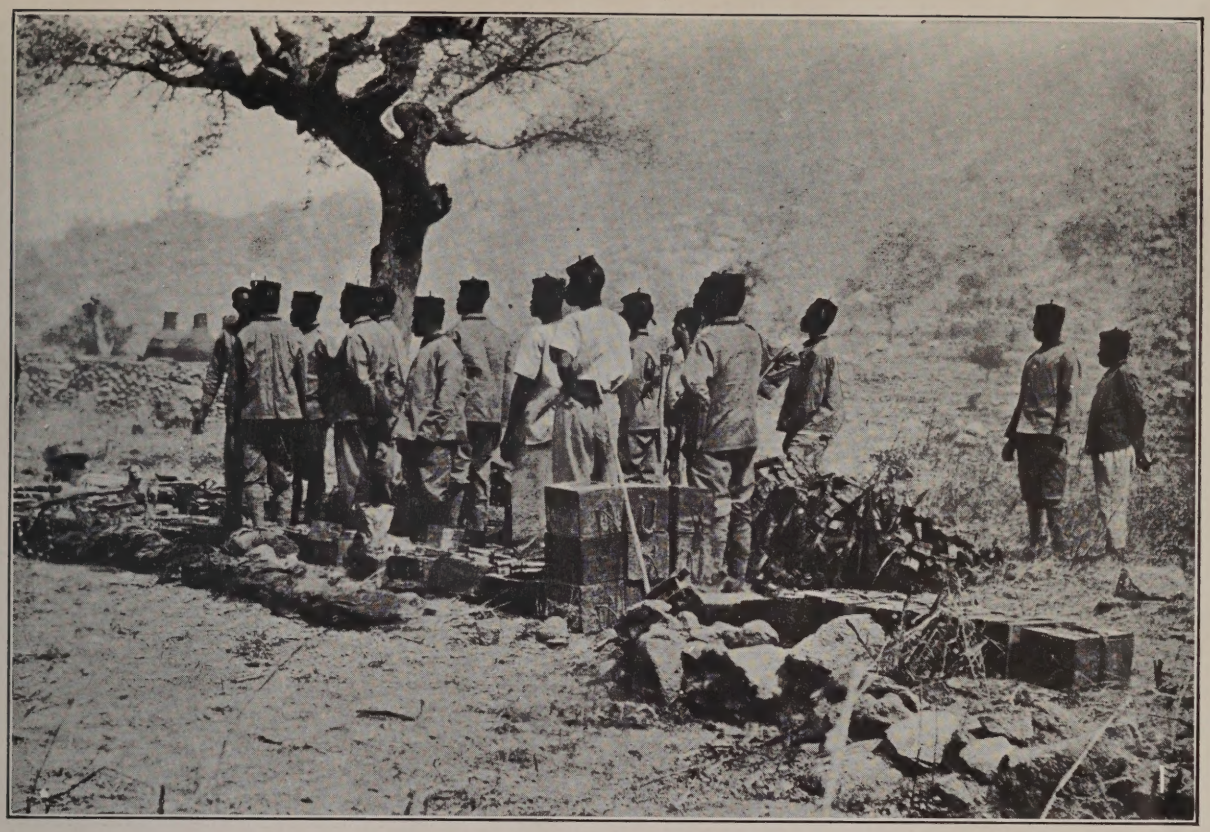
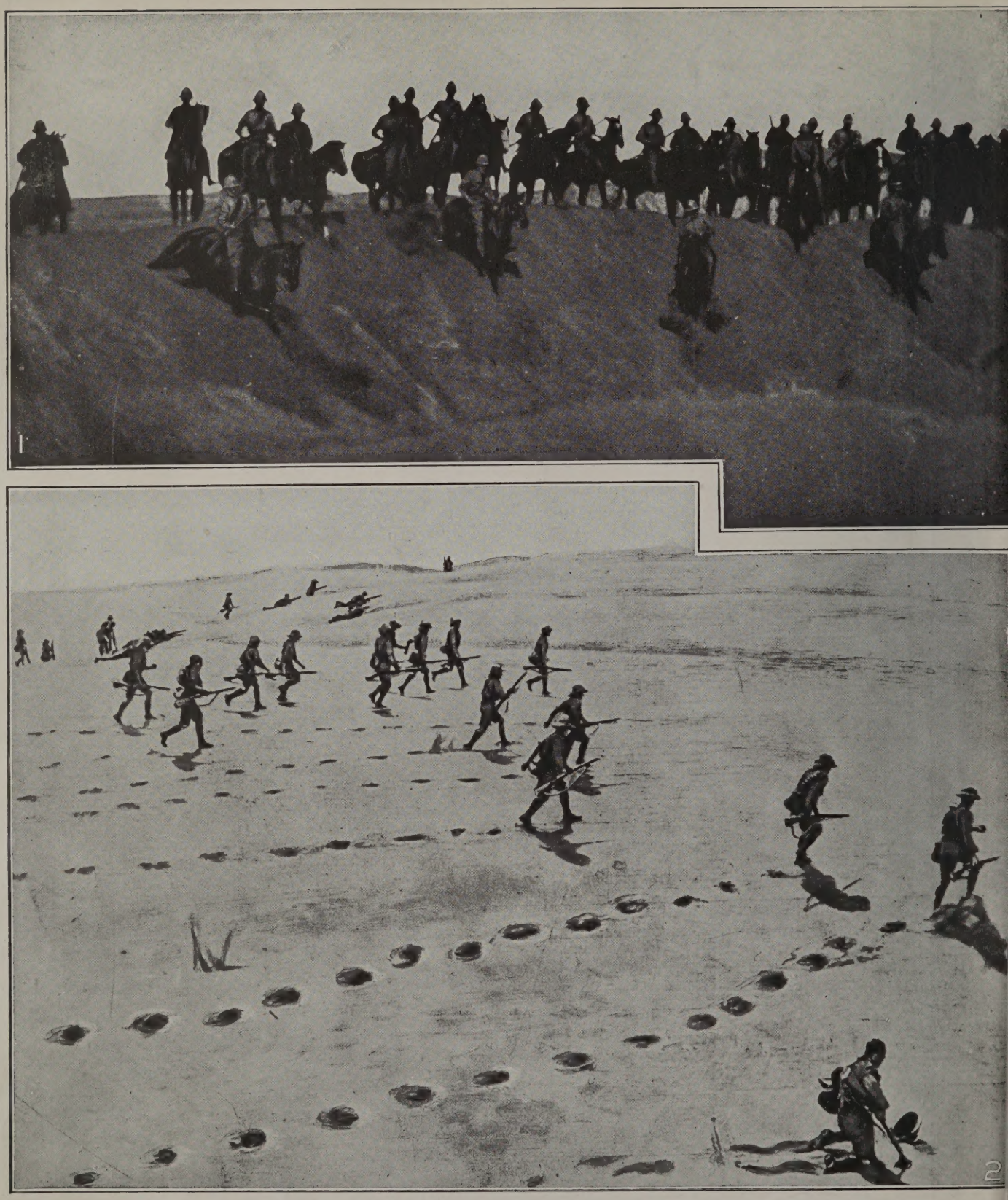
The Campaign in Cameroon.—1. A British Picket. 2. Making a Clearing for Landing Troops.



The Campaign in Cameroon : Taking over German War Material, after the Capitulation of Mora.

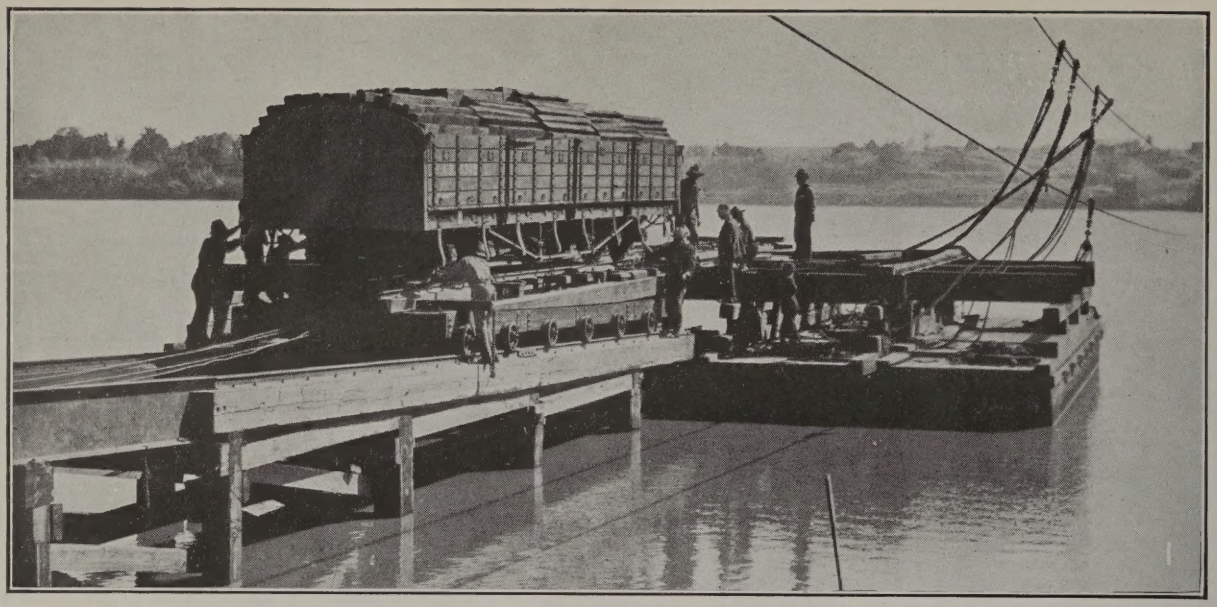


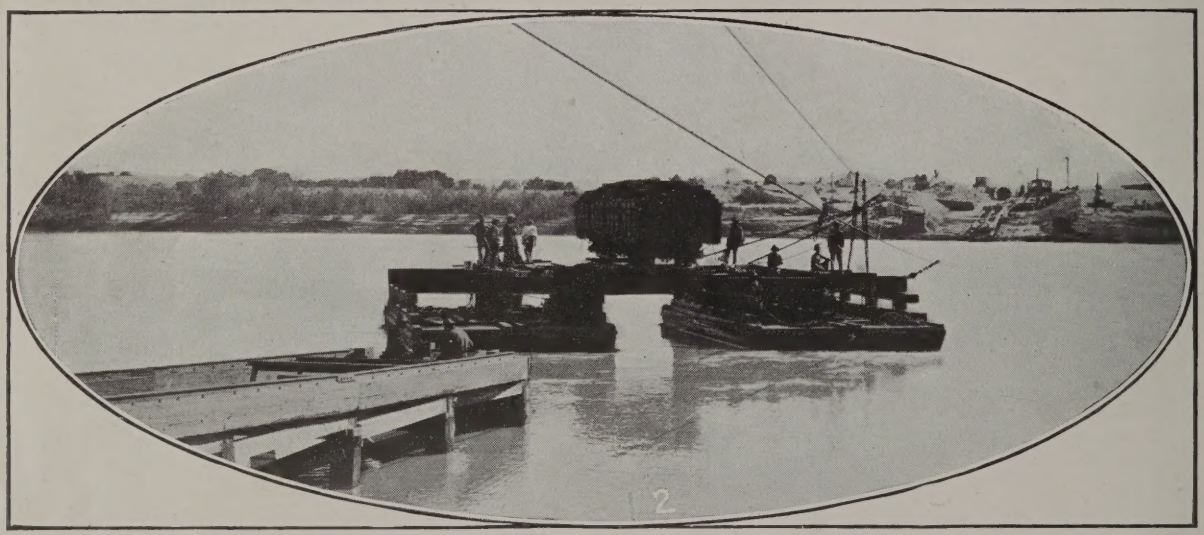
The Campaign in South-West Africa.—1. General Botha's Bodyguard Crossing the Sand-Dunes.

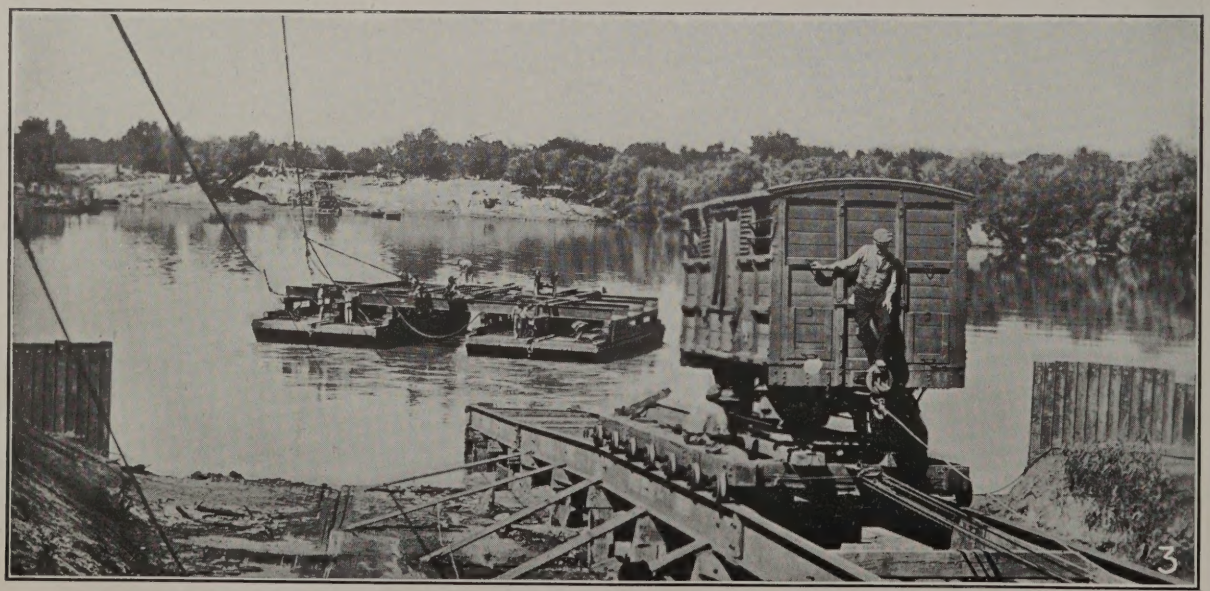
2. British Troops Advancing under Fire across the Sand. 3. Sleigh-Transport across the Desert.

The Campaign in South-West Africa.—(1) Clearing a Passage and (2) Laying Sleepers for a Railway Track.

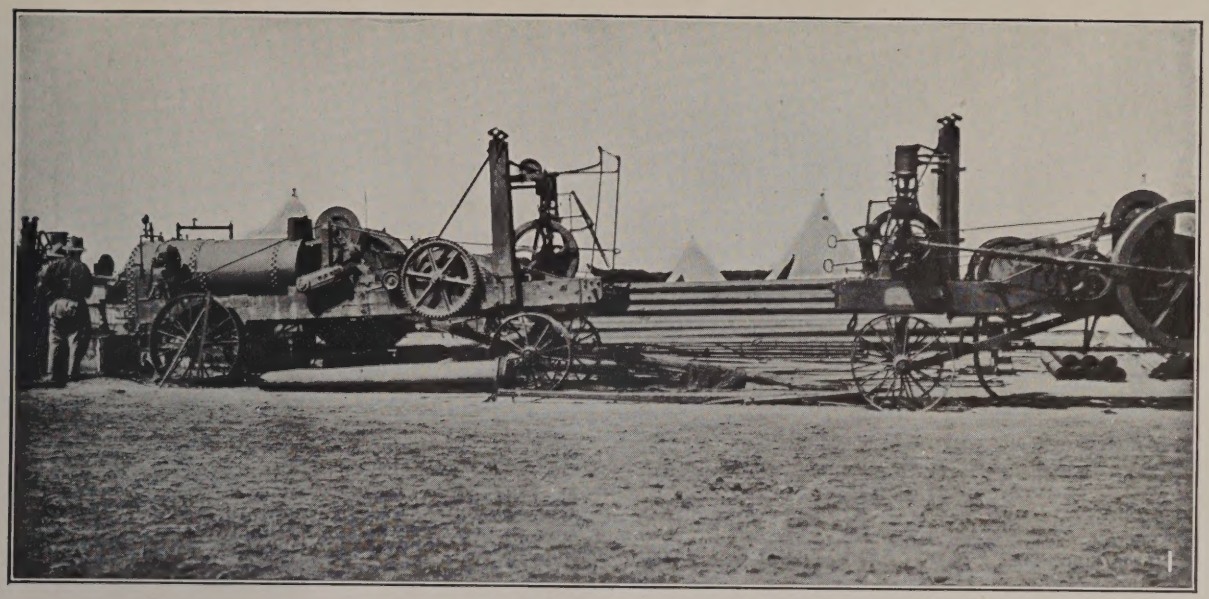
The Campaign in South-West Africa: Laying the Metals for a Railway Track.



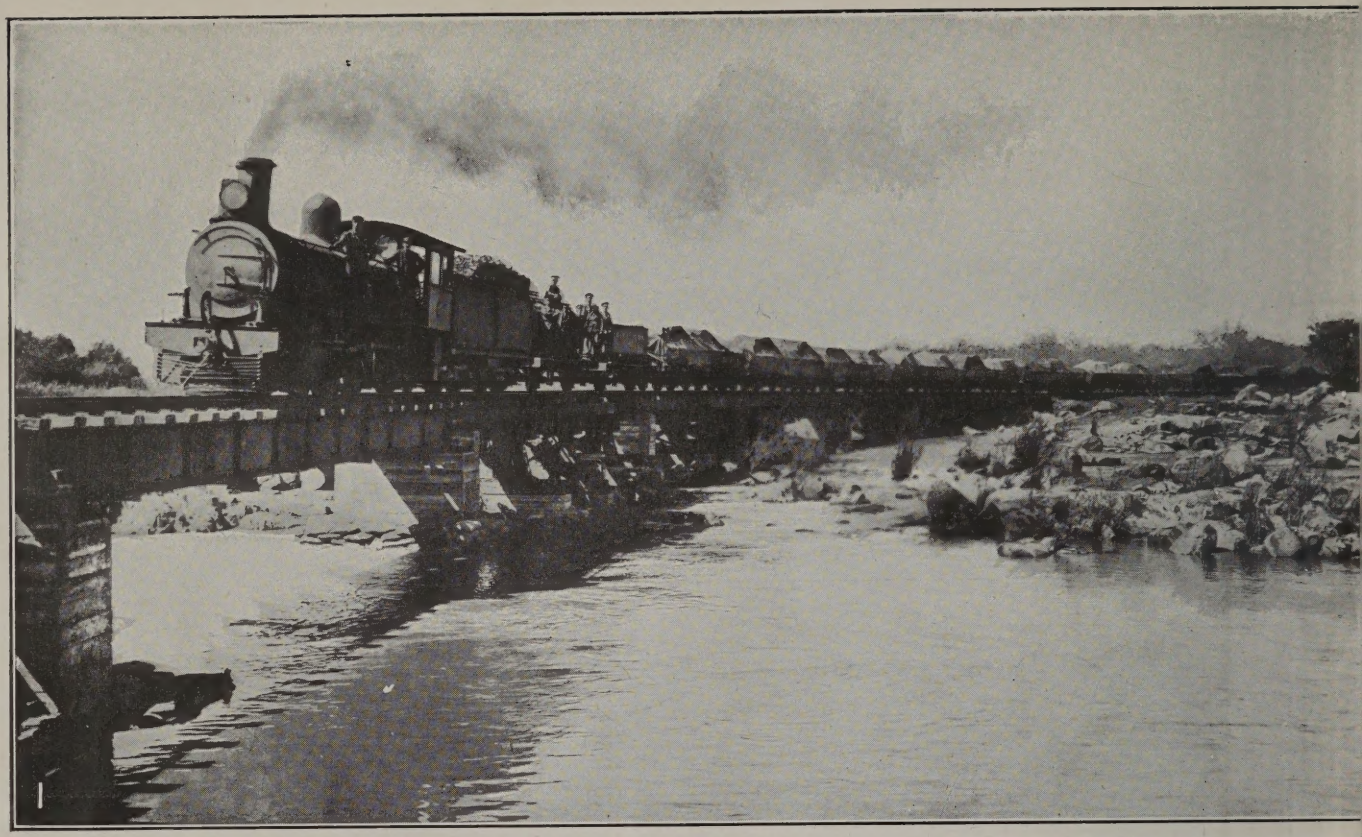


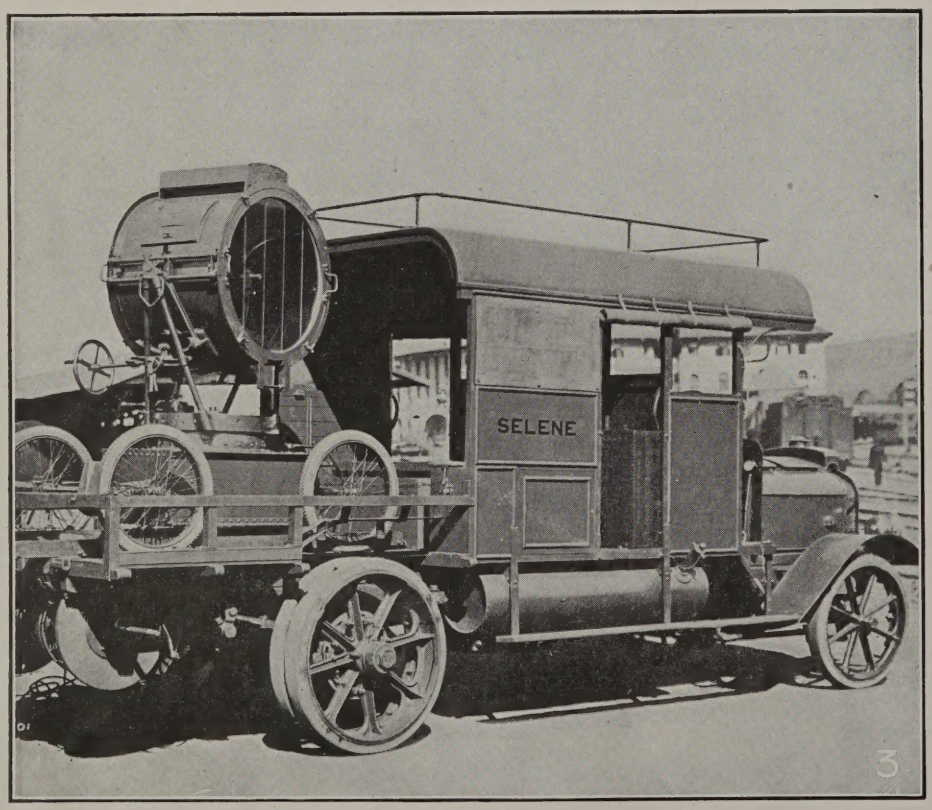


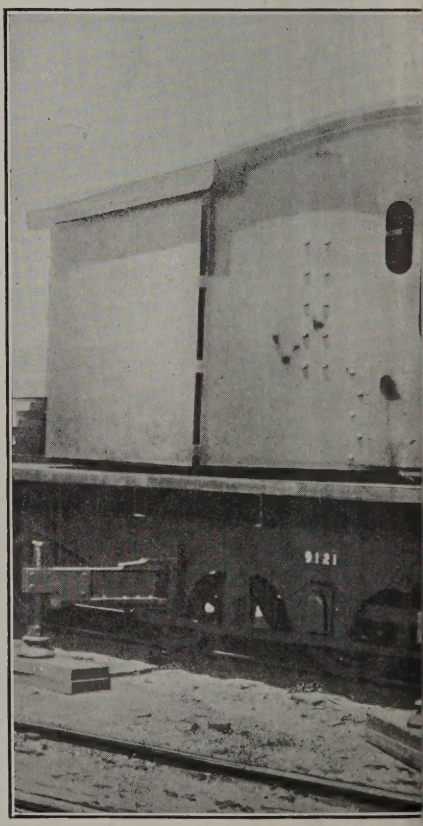
The Campaign in South-West Africa : Transporting Railway Material across the Orange River.



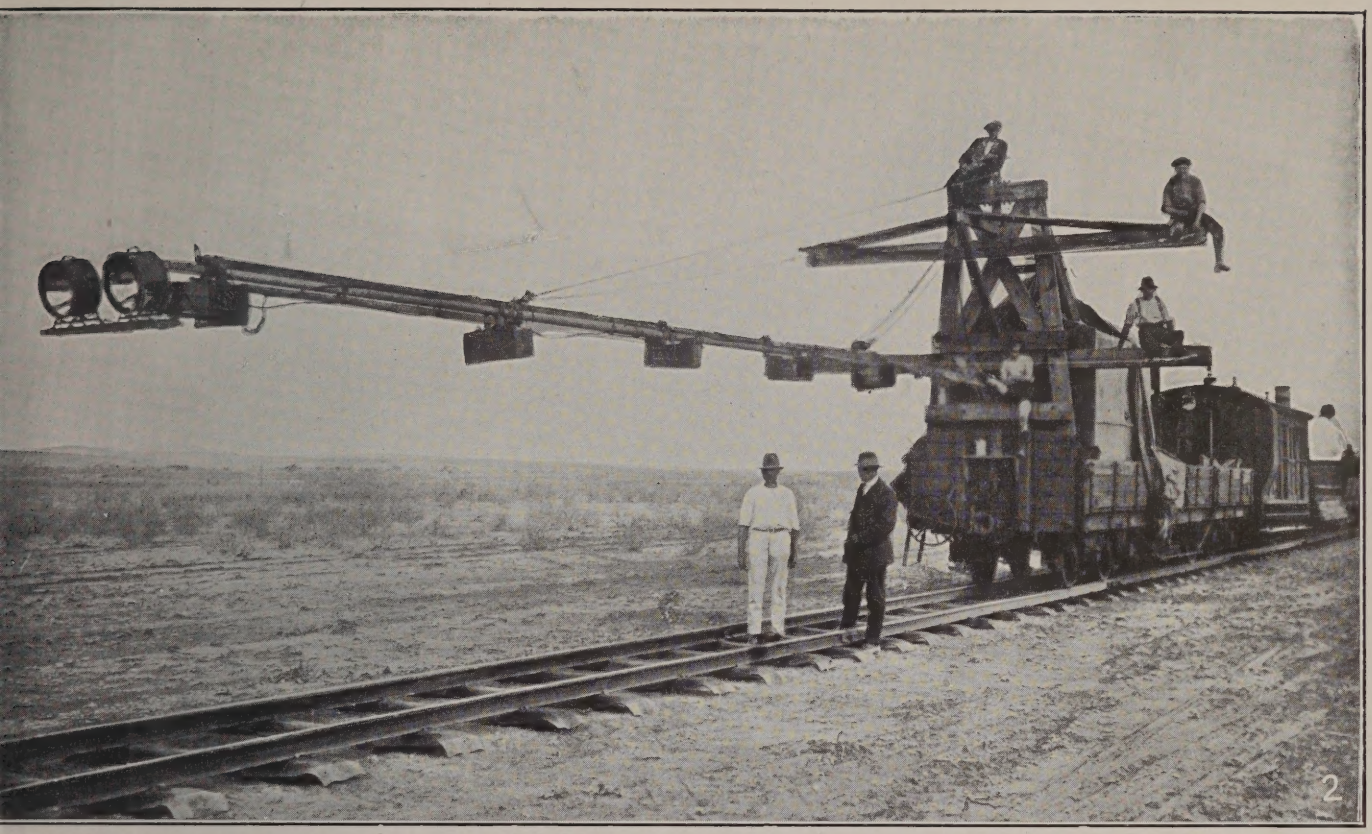
The Campaign in South-West Africa.—1. A Water-Boring Apparatus. 2. Digging for Water.

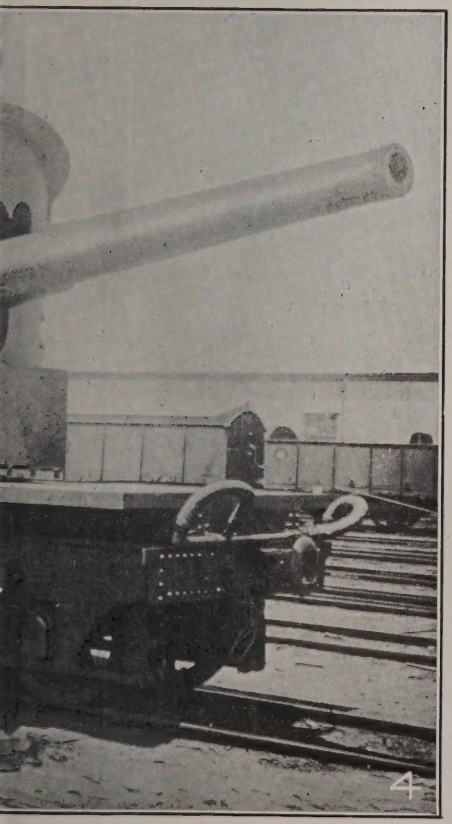


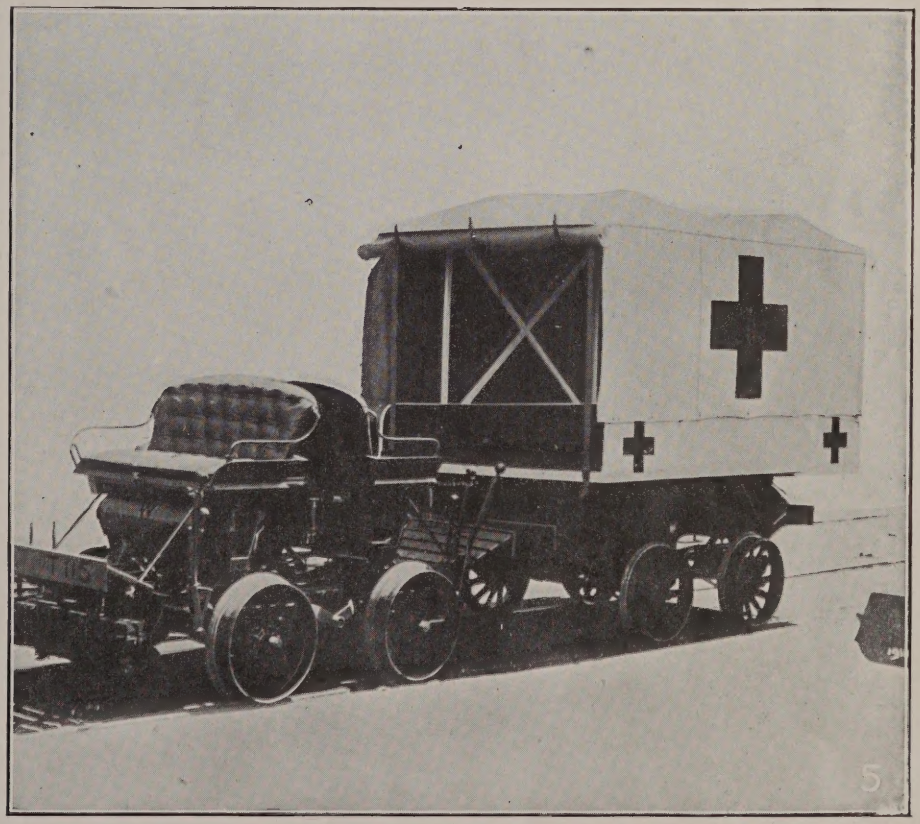




The Campaign in South-West Africa.—1. A Train of Military Motor-Cars Crossing the Orange River
4. A Large Gun Mounted on a Special Truck





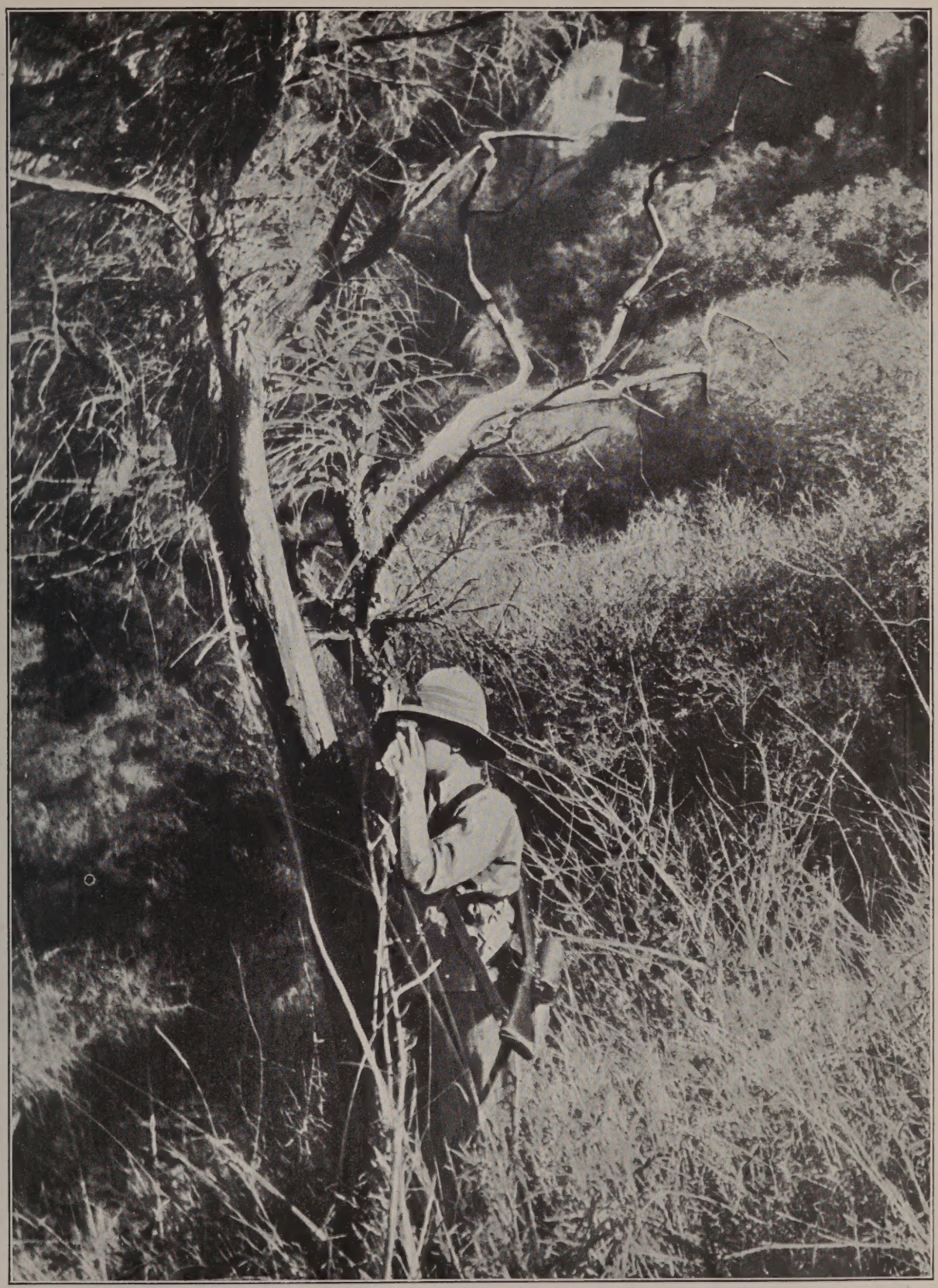


2. An Electric Lighting Plant, Used in Railway Construction at Night. 3. A Portable Searchlight on its Motor-Car.
5. A Motor Trolley, with Ambulance Trailer, on the Railway.

The Campaign in South-West Africa.—1. An Open Fire Trench, with Bomb-Proof Shelter on the Extreme Right.
2. Trenches with Overhead Cover Nearly Completed.

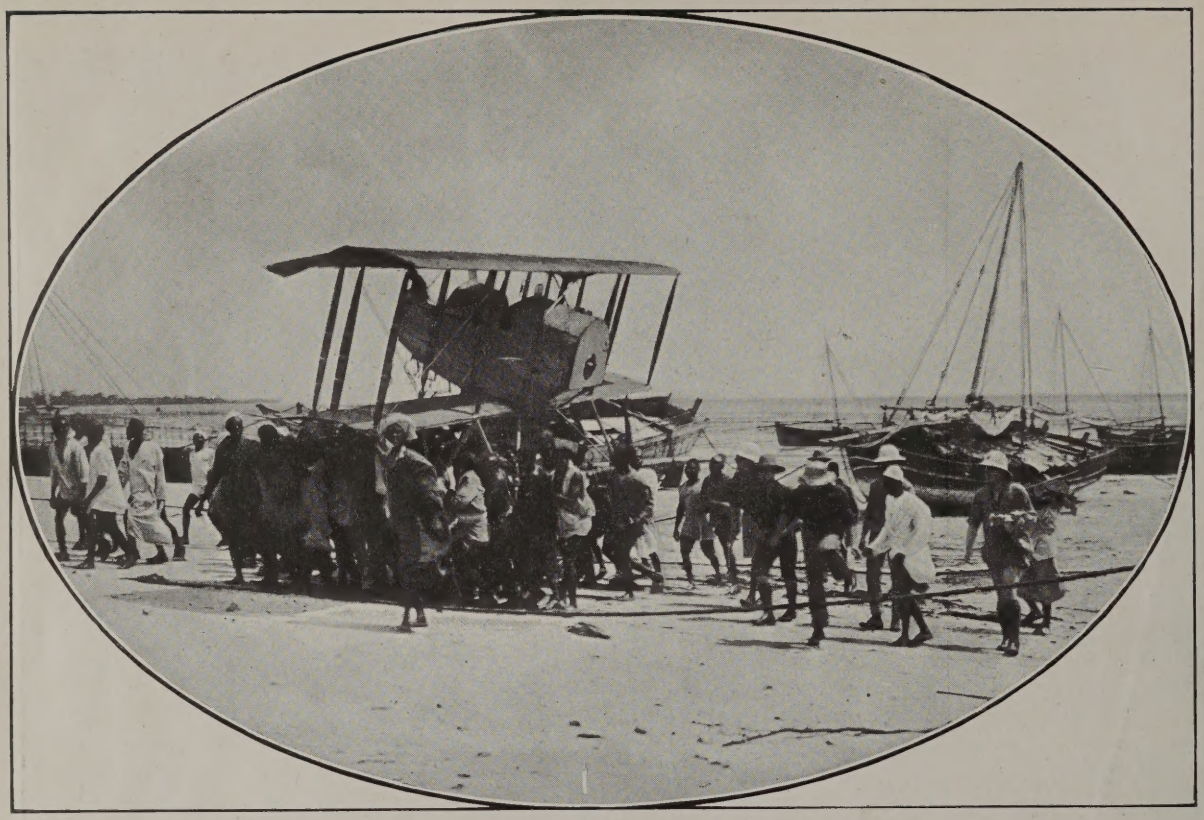
The Campaign in South-West Africa: The German Governor Signing the Surrender, before General Botha.

The Campaign in East Africa.—1. An Officer on Patrol, Crossing the Pangani River.
2. A Bridge of Collapsible Boats over the Pangani River.



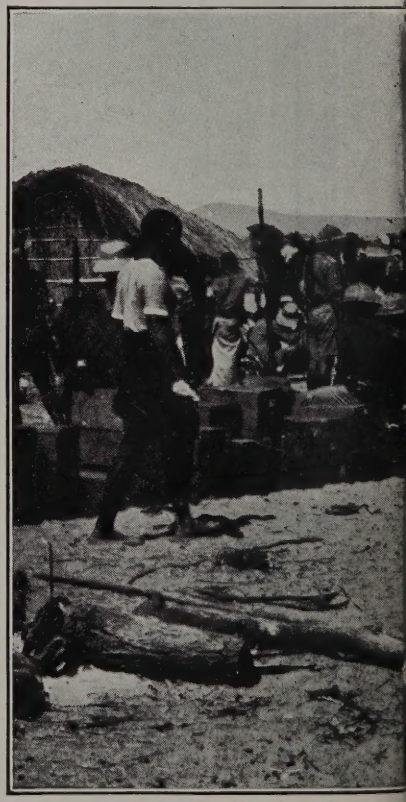
The Campaign in East Africa : An Observation Post on Kilimanjaro.

The British Campaign in East Africa: An Ox-Convoy Crossing a Reconstructed Bridge.

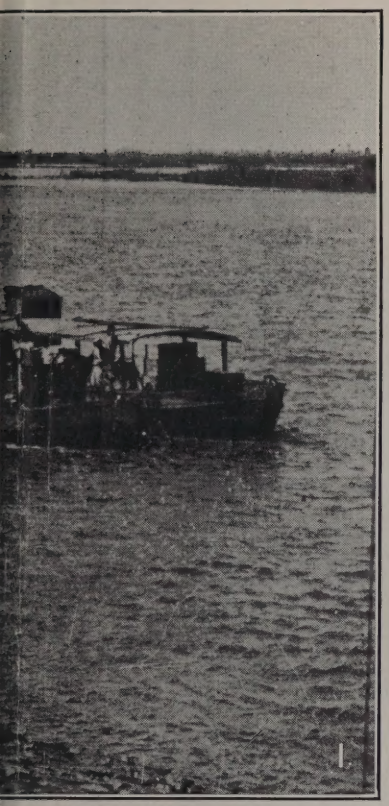


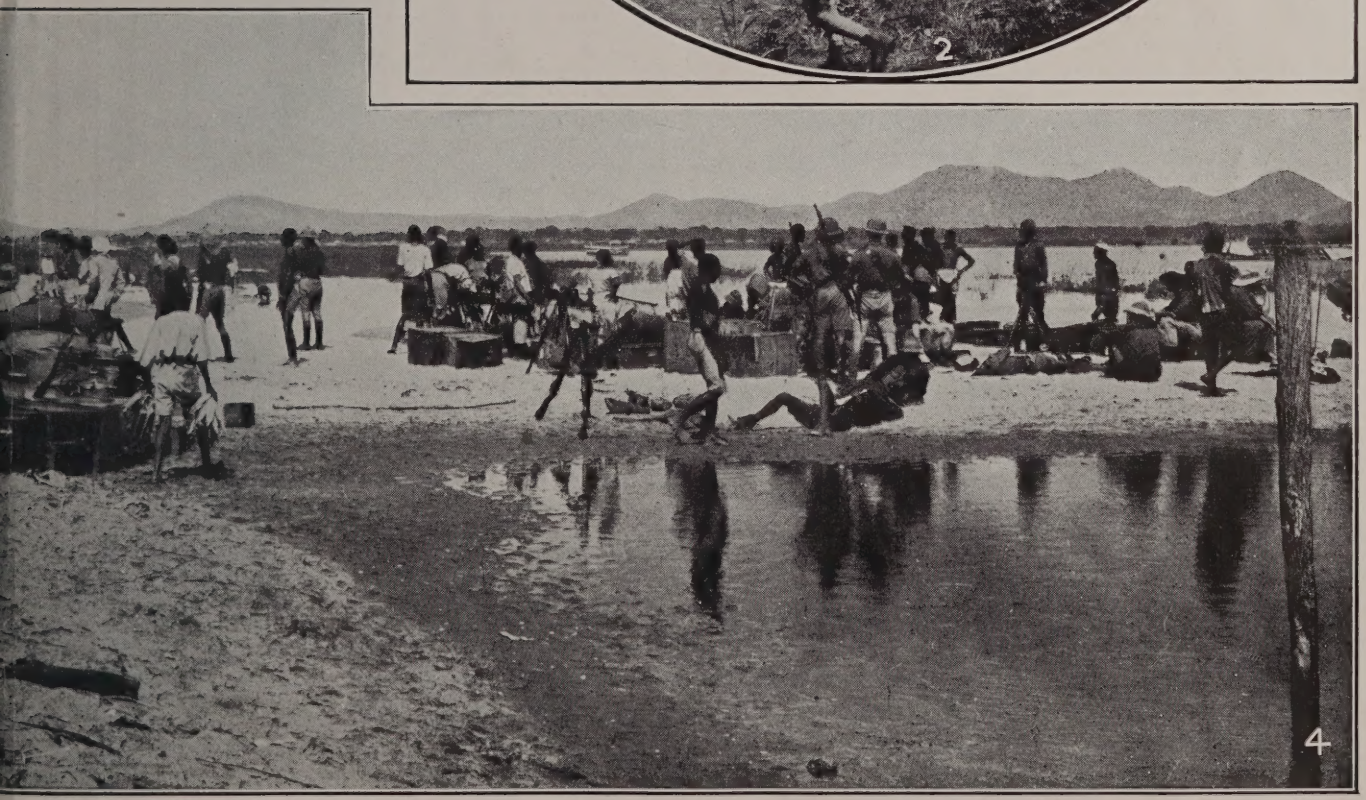
The Campaign in East Africa: A British Seaplane being Hauled up from the Water.

The Campaign in East Africa.—1. Kilimanjaro, Seen from an Aeroplane. 2. Kilimanjaro at Sunset, Seen through the Western Gap of Mbyuni Camp.



With Northey to Nyassa.—1. British Troops Disembarking at an East African Port. 2. A Forest Track.



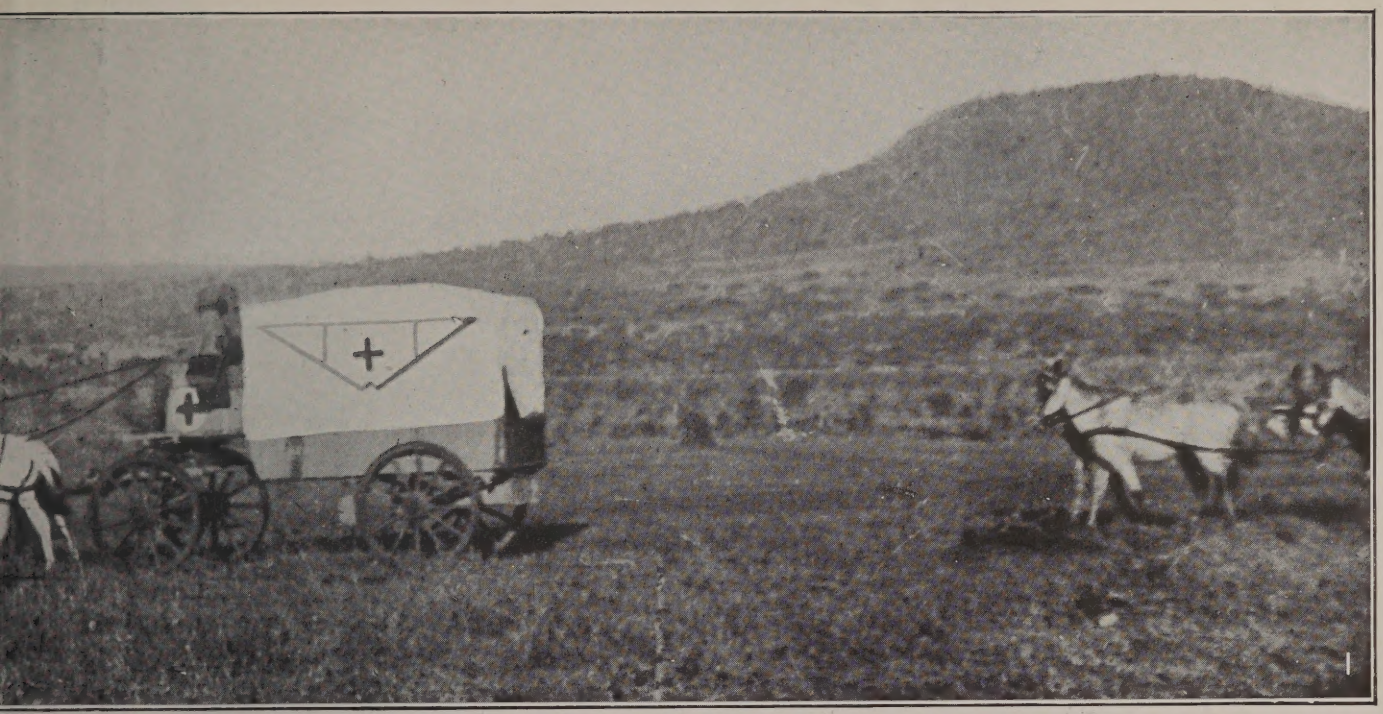


3. A Road and Bridge, Built for the Motor Column. 4. British Troops Landing at Karonga, on Lake Nyassa.

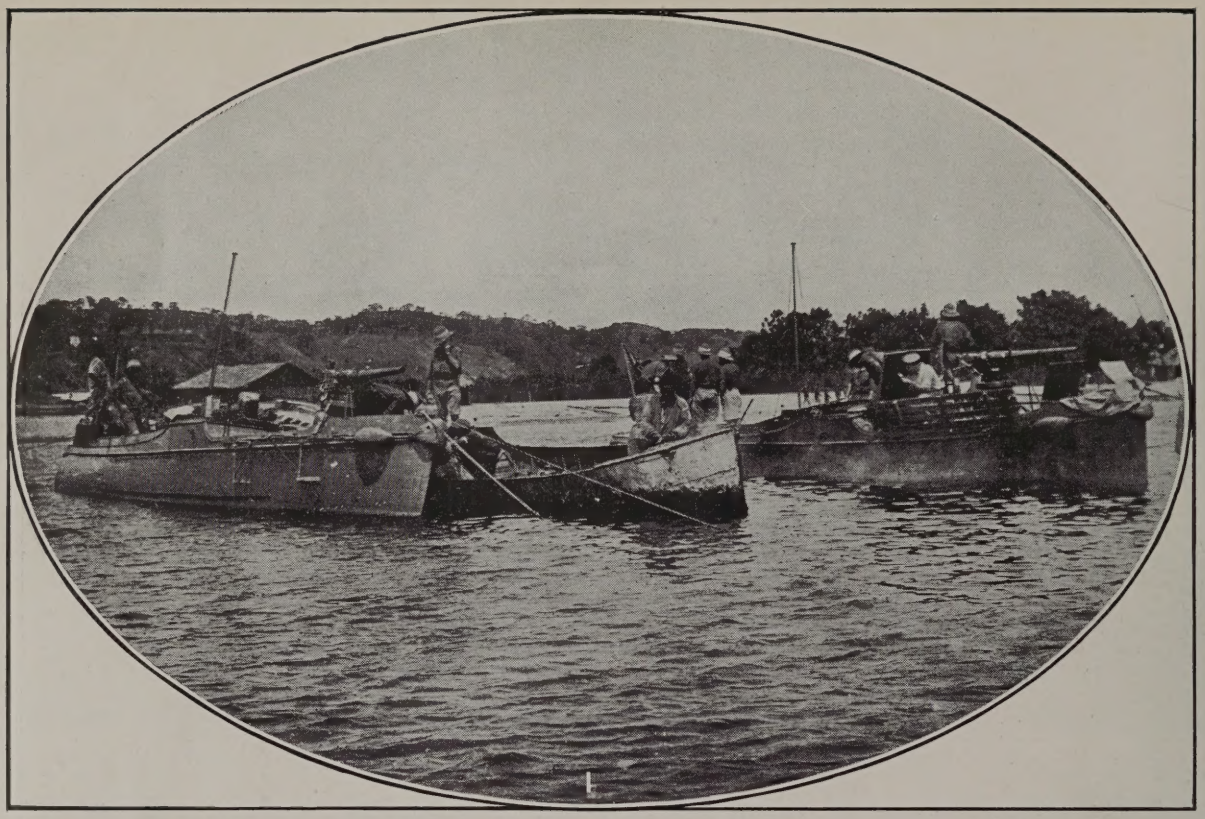
With Northey to Nyassa.—1. Walking up Stream. 2. Fort Namina, with Some of its Captors.

The Capture of Mafia Island.—1. British Troops Advancing on the March. 2. British Troops Encamped on the German Position.

The Campaign in East Africa.—1. Ambulance Wagons Following the Army.



2. Indian Cavalry Reconnoitring. 3. A Convoy and Escort on its Way through the Bush.

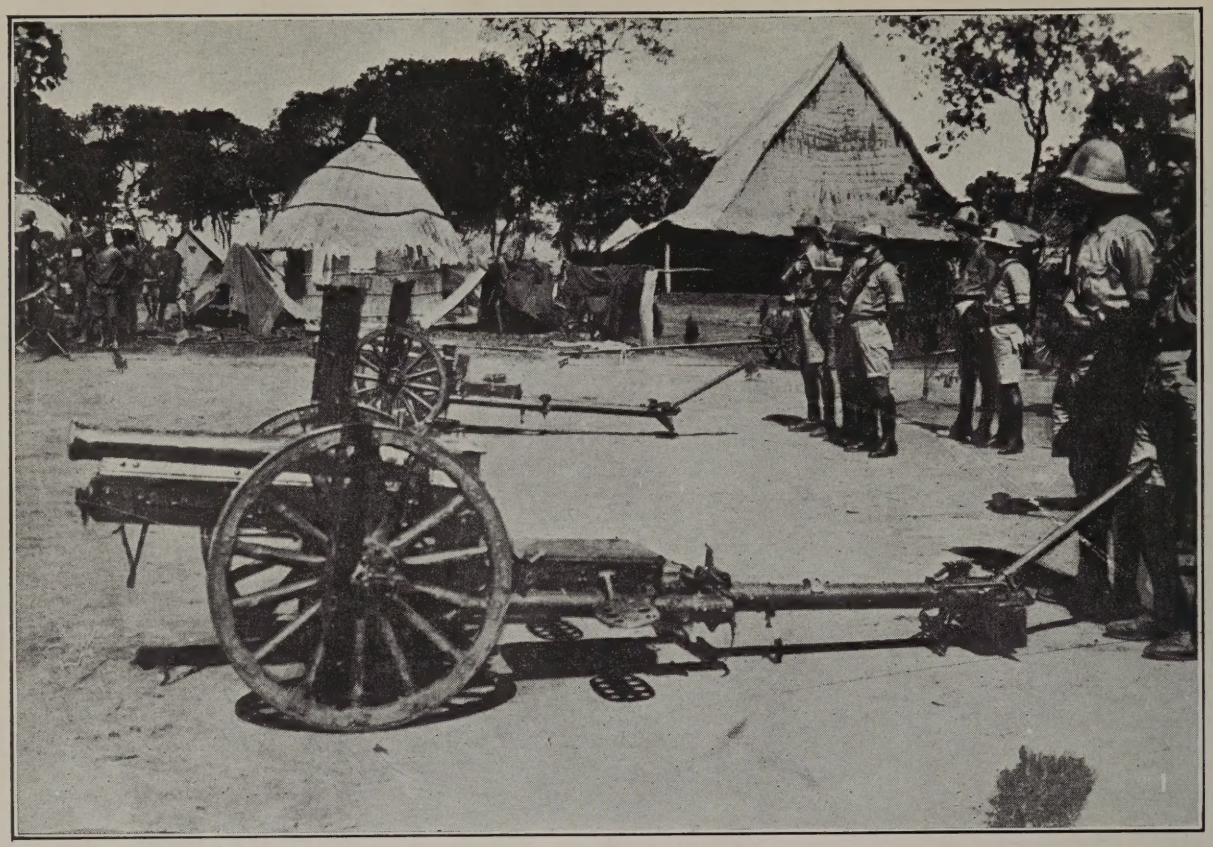


From Cape Town Overland to Tanganyika: The Armed Motor-Boats "Mimi" and "Tou-Tou."—
1. Preparing for Action. 2. Being Pushed off a Sandbank.

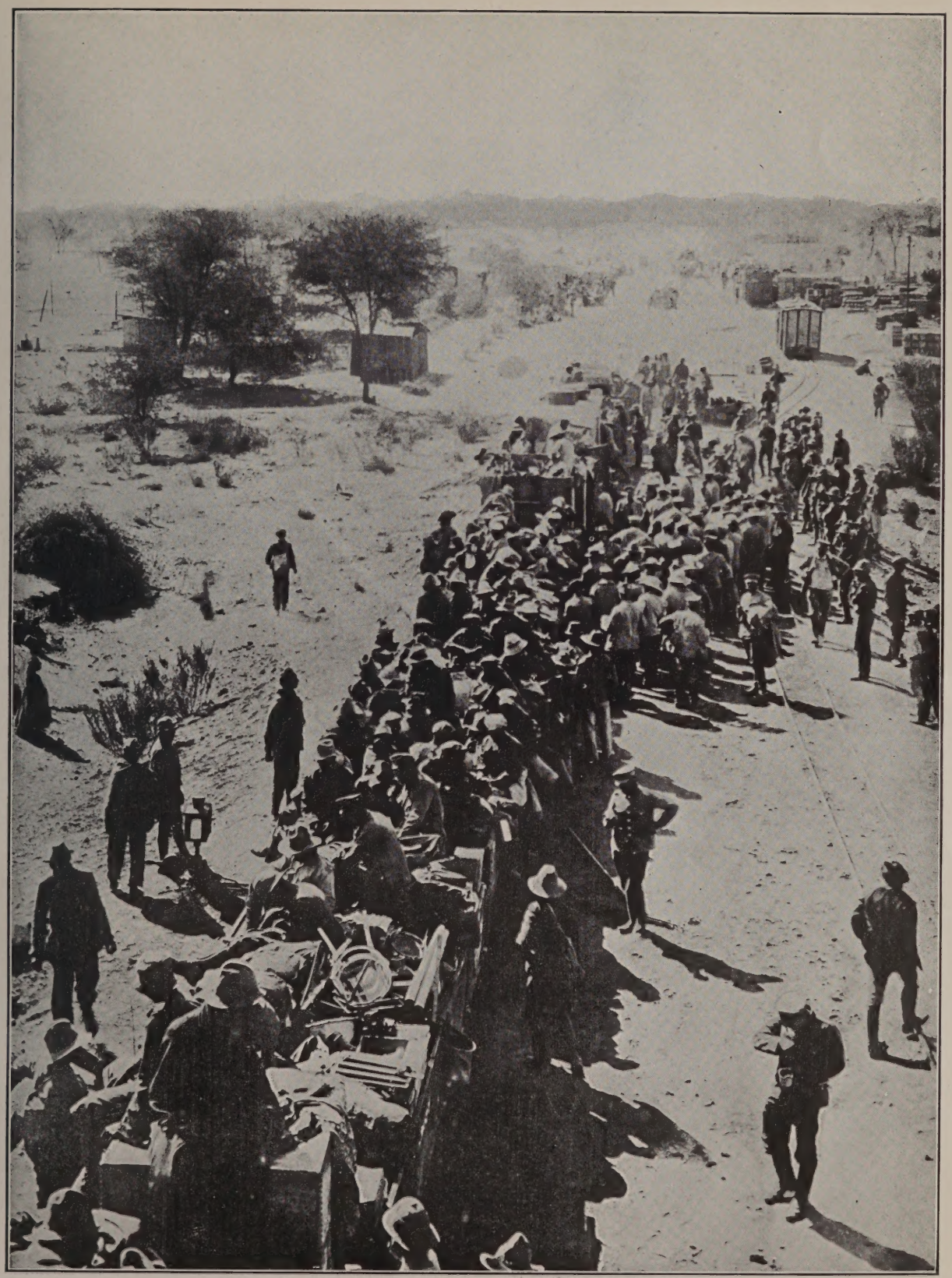
From Cape Town Overland to Tanganyika : " Mimi " Crossing a Bridge.

From Cape Town Overland to Lake Tanganyika.—1. Native Carriers Wading through the Water. 2. A Motor Transport with Armed Escort.

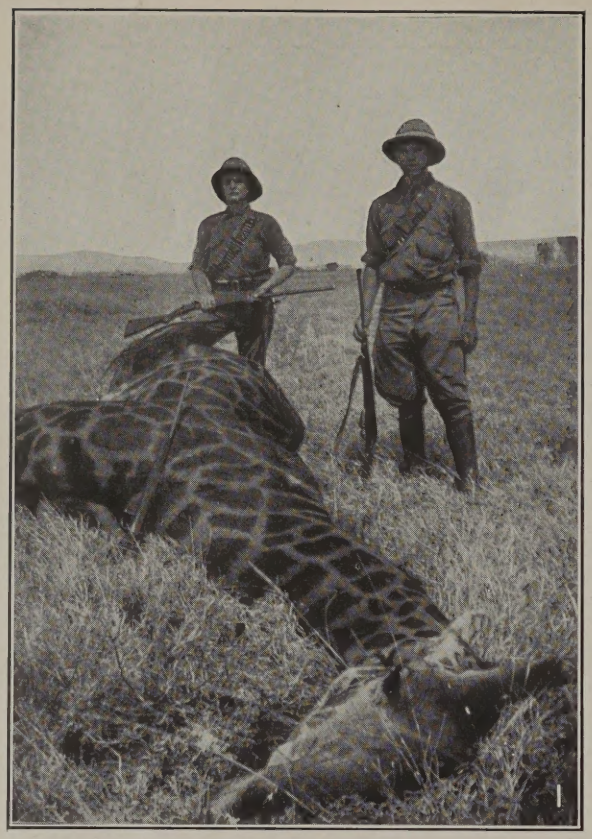
3. A Camp in the Bush, Showing Beds and Mosquito Nets. 4. Natives Making a Bridge in the Bush for the Transport of Traction Engines and Boats.

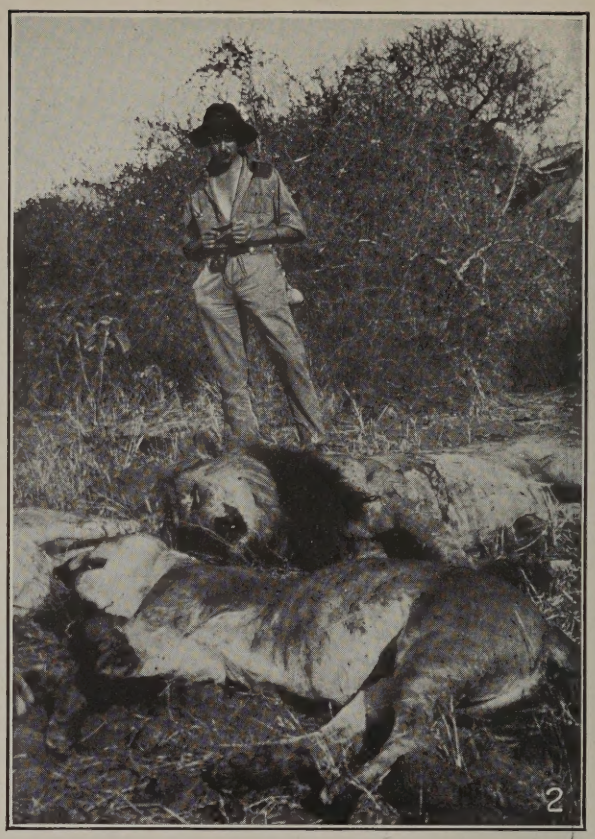


The Campaign in East Africa.—1. A Captured German Gun, Used by the British Forces.
2. Bringing in Guns Captured from the Germans.



The Campaign in East Africa : German Prisoners being Sent by Rail to a Concentration Camp.





Big Game for the Commissariat.—(1) A Giraffe, (2) Lions, and (3) an Eland, Shot for Meat.

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